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SUBCOMMITTEE ON STATE, FOREIGN  
OPERATIONS, AND RELATED PROGRAMS,  
RANKING MEMBER



**Nita M. Lowey**  
**Congress of the United States**

**17th District, New York**

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Mr. Ronald Batory  
Administrator  
Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Batory,

I write to express my deep concern that railroads around the country, including New Jersey Transit (NJT), will not meet the statutory deadline for Positive Train Control (PTC) implementation by December 31, 2018. Further delays in PTC implementation mean trains are operating without the most updated safety technologies and passengers remain at risk from preventable accidents.

When the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 was signed into law, railroads were given seven years to prepare for the December 31, 2015 deadline. When virtually no progress had been made by mid-2015, Congress extended the PTC deadline by three years to December 31, 2018. The federal government has provided about \$2 billion in loans and grants for commuter lines to implement PTC. Yet, railroads like NJT, which serves my constituents in Rockland County, NY, are still behind schedule. Its CEO, Kevin Corbett, has acknowledged NJT will not meet the deadline and the railroad has recently implanted service cutbacks.

As the nationwide deadline for PTC implementation is less than six months away, I would like to know FRA's plan to address the railroads which have not made sufficient progress. While civil penalties can be effective, I hope FRA will be able to offer guidance and technical assistance to ensure that NJT and other commuter railroads provide passengers the safest possible experiences.

Thank you for your attention to this issue. I look forward to your quick response.

Sincerely,

  
Nita M. Lowey  
Member of Congress

CC: Kevin Corbett, Executive Director, New Jersey Transit  
CC: Ed Day, Executive, Rockland County